

Armenian Delegation Visits KDHEL

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The Division of Health and Environmental Laboratories (DHEL) recently provided a presentation on public health laboratories and a tour for a group of Armenian delegates as part of the National Guard State Partnership Program.

The mission of the program is to link states with partner countries to improve relations. The program was developed in 1993 after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The U.S. established Military Liaison Teams to assist the democratic governments that emerged post 1993 throughout the world.

The Kansas National Guard (KNG) has partnered with Armenia, and also works closely with DHEL. Laboratory staff provided the delegates with information about the purpose and capabilities of public health and environmental laboratories.

The Armenian partners had difficulty understanding that the military can work with civilians on a level playing ground. During the tour, DHEL staff showed them how well KDHE works well with the KNG. The 73rd Civil Support Team (CST) of the KNG was conducting an exercise involving a simulated biological lab onsite. The Armenians were able to see the team in action and it was explained what support DHEL can provide to the CST during an incident.

During their visit the Armenians were given an overview of other KDHE divisions and bureaus, including information on programs such as "Did You Wash 'Em," "Healthy Kids," "Kansas Don't Spoil It," and others. With help from the Bureau of Environmental Remediation, the Bureau of Consumer Health, and the Office of Health Promotion, materials were given to the delegates to generate ideas for similar programs in their country.



KDHE staff demonstrate laboratory operations to a delegation from Armenia during a recent visit of the Kansas Department of Health and Environmental Laboratories.